



February 15, 2011

Mr. Michael Baes  
Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1515 Clay St., 16th floor  
Oakland, California 94612  
Transmitted via email to [mbaes@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:mbaes@oehha.ca.gov)

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**Re: Public Health Goal of .02 ppb for Chromium VI –Support**

Dear Mr. Baes,

I am writing on behalf of Clean Water Action and our 85,000 California members to voice our strong support for the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA) proposed Public Health Goal (PHG) of .02 parts per billion (ppb) for Chromium VI. We commend OEHHA's staff for their groundbreaking scientific analysis of the health threat posed by this chemical in drinking water, which despite self-serving challenges by polluters and water agencies, has stood up to extensive peer review. This PHG demonstrates California's leadership in establishing the scientific basis on which we can now set a health protective drinking water standard for all residents.

Finalizing the PHG so that we can establish the drinking water standard is urgent. The widespread occurrence of Chromium VI in California's drinking water means that many of our members are at risk of serious health impacts. According to the state Department of Public Health's monitoring data, the chemical has been found in over 2,000 drinking water sources in 52 out of 58 counties, threatening the health of millions of residents.

Clean Water Action and our members are aware that there are responsible parties who continue to advocate for delay in establishing this PHG. There is absolutely no justification for such postponement. In fact, a continued holdup would be indefensible given the severe health impacts associated with Chromium VI and the vast number of water supplies that are affected. Despite claims to the contrary, scientific research has clearly demonstrated that the hexavalent form of chromium is not completely converted to the less toxic trivalent form in the body, does bioaccumulate in the body due to oral exposure, and is linked, at low levels, to cancer and other serious problems. Furthermore, California is in violation of its own law given that the state legislature mandated the establishment of a drinking water standard for Chromium VI by 2004.

There is no need to wait for further study when we already have substantial data demonstrating the danger posed by Chromium VI in drinking water and a scientifically defensible PHG proposal. Please stop the cycle of delay and finalize the .02 ppb PHG immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andria Ventura".

Andria Ventura  
Program Manager

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